

## Message Text

SECRET

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13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 141133Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 815

S E C R E T BANGKOK 2693

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, US, TH

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR STATE VISIT BY KING PHUMIPHON

REF: STATE 020533

1. THIS AFTERNOON PRINCE THAWISAN LADAWAN, THE KING'S PERSONAL PRIVATE SECRETARY, CALLED UPON ME AT MY INVITATION TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE KING ACCEPTING PRESIDENT FORD'S INVITATION FOR A STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. I CONVEYED THIS INVITATION TO THAWISAN AND INDICATED THAT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIS INFORMAL VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A STATE VISIT. HE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THE KING WOULD LIKE TO GO SO FAR FROM THAILAND AT THIS CRITICAL TRANSITION PERIOD. HE ALSO SAID THAT A TRIP OF THIS KIND WOULD BE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE AND THAT THE KING MIGHT NOT WISH TO SUBJECT HIMSELF TO A TYPE OF CRITICISM THAT MIGHT BE LAUNCHED AGAINST SUCH A VISIT BY SOME OF THE ACTIVIST GROUPS IN THAILAND.

3. ADDITIONALLY, HE TOLD ME THAT THE KING HAD NOT YET FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE ILLNESS WHICH HAS AFFECTED HIM FOR THE PAST MONTH. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, HE PICKED UP A BAD CASE OF FLU WHICH LATER TURNED INTO PNEUMONIA. HE HAD MANY, MANY DAYS OF EXTREMELY HIGH TEMPERATURES AND IS NOT YET FULLY RECOVERED. HE WILL BE GIVEN AN EXAMINATION TOMORROW

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TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PNEUMONIA HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

THE DOCTORS, ACCORDING TO THAWISAN, BELIEVE THAT THE KING SHOULD HAVE AN ADDITIONAL MONTH OF AS COMPLETE REST AS POSSIBLE. HE BELIEVES THAT THIS REST WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PALACE IN CHIANG MAI.

4. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THAWISAN TOLD ME THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER STORY WHICH RECENTLY APPEARED IN THE LONDON DAILY MIRROR CONCERNING THE ALLEGED PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN IN THE NUDE. THAWISAN TOLD ME THAT THIS PICTURE, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF NUDE PORTRAITS, WERE PAINTED BY THE KING AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN DISPLAYED ON THE PALACE WALLS IN THE CHITLADA RAHOTHON PALACE IN BANGKOK. THAWISAN PRESUMED THAT SOMEBODY, WHILE VISITING, HAD TAKEN A PHOTOGRAPH OF ONE OF THESE PORTRAITS WHICH PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR THE LONDON DAILY MIRROR STORY.

5. THAWISAN ALSO INFORMED ME THAT PRASIT, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HAD AN APPOINTMENT AT 4 O'CLOCK ON FEBRUARY 15 AND WOULD AT THAT TIME RECEIVE THE KING'S APPROVAL OF SENI AS THE PRIME MINISTER.

6. THAWISAN HIMSELF EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AT SENI AS NOT BEING STRONG ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH MANY OF THE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING THAILAND; IN PARTICULAR, WITH THE TERRORIST INSURGENCIES UNDER-WAY IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

7. AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR CONVERSATION, I ASKED THAWISAN TO PERSONALLY CONVEY PRESIDENT FORD'S INFORMAL INVITATION TO HIS MAJESTY AND ASKED HIM TO LET ME KNOW WHAT THE KING'S OWN RESPONSE WOULD BE.  
KINTNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, US, TH, (PHUMIPHON ADUNYADET)  
**To:** STATE  
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